

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6958

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, GEN, SM, GY
SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. GUYANA IS A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 800,000 AND LARGE AREAS OF UNINHABITED LAND. ITS ECONOMY IS DEPENDENT UPON ITS EXPORT EARNINGS, PRINCIPALLY FROM BAUXITE AND ALUMINA, SUGAR, RICE, AND, LESS IMPORTANTLY, FISHERIES. BARRING THE UNLIKELY DISCOVERY OF AS YET UNIDENTIFIED NATURAL RESOURCES (SUCH AS FOSSIL FUEL), IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY "SPECIFIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL GLOBAL ISSUES" WILL REQUIRE "PRIORITY ATTENTION" FROM THE UNITED STATES.

2. GUYANA ITSELF, OF COURSE, CAN EXPECT TO BE AFFECTED BY WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE NON-BAUXITE SOURCES OF ALUMINA, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GUYANA'S CALCINED BAUXITE FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS A MAJOR MARKET COULD HAVE A DRAMATIC IMPACT ON GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS, IN AGRICULTURAL, IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME RESOURCES, ETC., COULD
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WELL HAVE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR GUYANA.

3. THE EMBASSY STAFFING IS ADEQUATE FOR ANY LIKELY DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES. IN ADDITION, THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) MISSION IN GUYANA, WHICH HAS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TOUCHING ON SEVERAL OF THE AREAS NOTED ABOVE, HAS READY

ACCESS TO SPECIALISTS IN ADDITION TO THE RESOURCES OF
THE MISSION ITSELF.

4. GUYANA'S PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL ARE VERY SIMILAR IN
MANY REGARDS TO THOSE OF OTHER CARIBBEAN NATIONS. THUS
IT MIGHT WELL PROVE MORE FRUITFUL TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION
ON A REGIONAL RATHER THAN A NATIONAL BASIS.
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Message Attributes

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